

FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SITES

Abstract: The Forest Service operates and maintains administrative sites and facilities associated with the management of Forest and Grassland activities. Forest and Grassland operations consist of providing customer service and stewardship which require strategically located facilities for administration, recreation, communication, and firefighting.

Presently, the Forests and Grassland operate and maintains 14 administrative sites consisting of 122 structures. The Forest and Grassland inventory also consists of 21 dams and 7 designated electronic communication sites.

Most of the office and work facilities are beyond their designed service life. Many are not fuel-efficient and need to be retrofitted for energy efficiency, accessibility, safety and OSHA compliance. Issues are prioritized and final decision and priority recommendations will be made by the Forest Supervisor as funding opportunities arise.

The management of Forest facilities under the different alternatives is not expected to change as a result of the *Forest Plan* revision. The need for Forest Service-owned structures may fluctuate, but no significant change is anticipated. Various routine administration and maintenance activities will continue, regardless of the *Forest Plan* alternative selected.

Final decision and priority recommendations will be made by the Forest Supervisor as funding opportunities arise.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK

FSM 7300 and *FSM 1241* require that Facility Master Plans be developed and revised to ensure proper planning and programming for buildings and related facilities to support the units' missions consistent with forest plans. The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Facility Master Plan identifies direction and priorities for building needs and related capital improvements for Forest Administrative Sites over a 10-year period.

Administrative sites on the Forests and Grassland were evaluated for accessibility standards in 1993 and 1994. Buildings included in this evaluation were administrative offices, shops, dwellings and storage buildings. The evaluation identifies and recommends priorities for retrofitting accessibility barriers for administrative offices. Final decision and priority recommendations will be made by the Forest Supervisor as funding opportunities arise.

FSM 7500 - Water Storage and Transmission establishes policies, standards and criteria for the investigation, design, construction, emergency planning and response, maintenance and operation of water storage and transmission structures administered or permitted by the Forest Service.

Water storage structures include all dams, settling ponds and tailing dams. Water transmission structures include ditches, flumes, tunnels and penstocks.

Documentation and records are used to maintain and resolve problems with water storage and transmission structures. They include: dams inventory, project files, operation and maintenance, inspections and emergency action plans. The dams inventory provides the primary basis for administration. Each Forest Service Region maintains and updates annually an inventory for dams (permitted and Forest Service-owned) located on National Forest System Lands. A water storage and transmission structure inventory is maintained and complete reports reside at the Supervisor's Office.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The Supervisor's Office and Ranger District Offices are used for administration of Forest and Grassland operations and for public information meetings. They also serve as Visitor Information Centers. Other Forest facilities that require management are work centers, which consist of offices, shops, dwellings and storage buildings. The Forest administrative sites are shown on the *Forest Visitors Map*.

Presently, the Forests and Grassland maintain and operate the following administrative sites consisting of 122 structures:

1. Fort Collins Administrative Site
2. Hombres Work Center
3. Idaho Springs Work Center
4. Idaho Springs Visitor Information Center and Office
5. Idaho Springs residence
6. Shadow Mountain Village and other buildings in the Arapaho National Recreation Area
7. Rollinsville Work Center
8. Estes Park Office and Work Center
9. Buckhorn Work Center
10. Red Feather Lakes Work Center
11. Stub Creek Work Center
12. Briggsdale Work Center
13. Arrowhead Visitor Information Center

Most of the office and work facilities listed above are over 40 years old and beyond their designed service life. The facilities are used to capacity and are in some instances overcrowded. Many buildings are not fuel-efficient and need to be retrofitted for energy efficiency and accessibility. Safety and OSHA compliance issues are prioritized and implemented as funding allows.

Other facilities such as dams, reservoirs and electronic communications sites are managed by the Forest. The Forest inventory consists of 32 special-permit dams and 21 Forest Service-owned dams, two of which (Brainard Lake and Wildhorse) have a moderate hazard classification. All dams are in satisfactory condition and maintenance is performed as needed. The Forest and Grassland inventory of special-use dams and other water storage structures is maintained in accordance with 2720 Special Uses. Emergency Preparedness Plans (EPPs) for each applicable structure are on file and maintained at the Supervisor's Office.

The Forest electronic communication site inventory includes the following designated sites:

1. Deadman Mountain Lookout
2. Buckhorn Mountain
3. Bullfrog
4. Mount Thorodin
5. Squaw Mountain
6. Mines Peak
7. Table Mountain

Four sites in use which have not been formally designated are South Cottonwood, Sunspot, Reno Hills and a site near Crosier Mountain. The lookout tower on Deadman Mountain is being maintained in structurally sound condition as an electronic site and a visitor attraction, but it is not being operated as a fire lookout tower.

CURRENT USE AND MANAGEMENT

The Forest and Grassland Facility Master Plan establishes direction and priorities for building needs and related capital improvement for administrative sites over a ten-year period. The facility master plan is reviewed annually and amended at five-year intervals to reflect most current and longterm direction in addressing facility needs for Forest and Grassland personnel and operations based on *Forest Plan* direction. The master plan summarizes the anticipated workloads; identifies the skills needed and best locations from which to conduct work; describes the existing properties and identifies facilities to be retained, sold, traded, removed and acquired. Maintenance and rehabilitation needs, accessibility and safety conformance are also addressed. This master plan is used to develop budgets for the Forest Facility Program.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES

The number of buildings and associated facility program budgets on the Forests and Grassland have remained relatively constant over the last decade. The management of Forest facilities under the different alternatives is not expected to change as a result of the *Forest Plan* revision.

The need for Forest Service-owned structures may fluctuate, but no significant change is anticipated.

Various routine administration and maintenance activities will continue, regardless of the *Forest Plan* alternative selected.

Due to the fact that facility program budgets have been and are expected to remain relatively constant in all alternatives, careful planning and prioritization of facility maintenance funding is required. Priorities such as retrofitting buildings for accessibility, energy efficiency and hazardous material monitoring have been and will continue to be aggressively implemented, in addition to routine upkeep and maintenance.

An element of the Forest and Grassland Facility Master Plan is to identify properties to be retained, acquired, sold, traded or removed in order to reduce longterm costs to the government and to ensure that issues, needs and objectives for Forest and personnel management are achieved. Opportunities for District Office consolidation and relocations are being considered as opportunities arise. The complete Forest and Grassland Facility Master Plan is available for review at the Supervisor's Office.

FOREST SERVICE DAMS AND RESERVOIRS

It is not anticipated that there will be any changes or additions to the Forest Service-owned dams and reservoirs in the foreseeable future. Effects of special-use dams and other storage structures varies insignificantly between alternatives. An analysis based on resource need and function will be performed on the suitability of special-use structures as permits expire.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SITES

The Forest continues to get requests for new communication sites or expansion of current sites. Rapidly changing technology limits the planning horizon for electronic communication needs. Management challenges of the future are to consolidate users into minimum numbers of buildings, upgrade and replace outdated structures and provide opportunities that accommodate the needs of changing technology while minimizing impact on the resources. For detailed analysis on designation, refer to the Lands and Special Uses Section of this *FEIS* chapter.